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ANGLOSUCHUS, A NEW GENUS OF TELEOSAUIROID CROCODYLIANS

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In the preparation of a monograph on the fossil Crocodilia some interesting facts have been revealed regarding the genus *Steneosaurus* and its allies. The type species of this genus is *Steneosaurus rostromajor* Geoffroy Saint Hilaire. Other species that have been referred to this genus agree with the type species in a number of characters without a very wide range of variation. This includes what is probably the best known species, *Steneosaurus leedsi* Andrews from the Jurassic of Peterborough, England. One of the most significant characters of *Steneosaurus* is the large size of the supratemporal fenestrae. These openings are somewhat variable in size and shape among the species of the genus but they are always large, occupying most of the superior surface of the skull posterior to the orbits. They are usually somewhat angular in outline, somewhat elongate, close to each other, close to the orbits and close to the posterior border of the skull top.

Two species described by Owen from the Jurassic of England, one definitely from the Great Oolite and the other probably from the same horizon, exhibit somewhat different characters. These are *Steneosaurus geoffroyi* and *Steneosaurus laticeps*.²

These species differ very slightly from each other but differ rather widely from other species referred to *Steneosaurus* and from the type of *Steneosaurus*. In both of them the supratemporal fenestrae are relatively small; they are distinctly rounded in outline; they are separated by moderately broad bars of bone from the external and posterior borders of the cranial surface, from the orbits and from each other. The frontal bone participates

to a considerable extent in the antero-internal border of each fenestra.

The fenestrae are smaller and the snout appears to be less slender than in the genus *Teleosaurus*; the teeth are slender as in that genus.

In view of these facts it seems desirable to establish a new genus to contain the species *Steneosaurus geoffroyi* Owen and *S. laticeps* Owen. This genus may be designated *Anglosuchus* in allusion to the fact that the only known occurrences of the two species now comprising it are in England.

ANGLOSUCHUS, NEW GENUS

TYPE.—*Steneosaurus geoffroyi* Owen.

OTHER INCLUDED SPECIES.—*Steneosaurus laticeps* Owens.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.—The diagnostic characters of teleosaurid crocodilians; supratemporal fenestrae small, subcircular in outline, moderately and subequally spaced from the external and posterior borders of the superior cranial surface, from the orbits and from each other; frontal bone participating in the borders of the supratemporal fenestrae; frontal and prefrontal bones extending forward to approximately the same level. Teeth small and slender.

Anglosuchus geoffroyi (Owen)

(Synonym: *Steneosaurus geoffroyi* Owen.)

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—The characters of *Anglosuchus*; orbits subcircular; the posterior process of prefrontal broad; the posterior process of the prefrontal terminates abruptly, part of the nasoprefrontal suture being essentially transverse; the nasals narrow gradually in the anterior direction.

Anglosuchus laticeps (Owen)

(Synonym: *Steneosaurus laticeps* Owen.)

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—The characters of *Anglosuchus*; orbits and supratemporal fenestrae more nearly circular than in *A. geoffroyi*; the posterior process of the

¹ Contributions to the Osteology, Affinities and Distribution of the Crocodilia, No. 39.

² Owen, Richard, 1884, "A History of British Fossil Reptiles," III, pp. 144, 145.

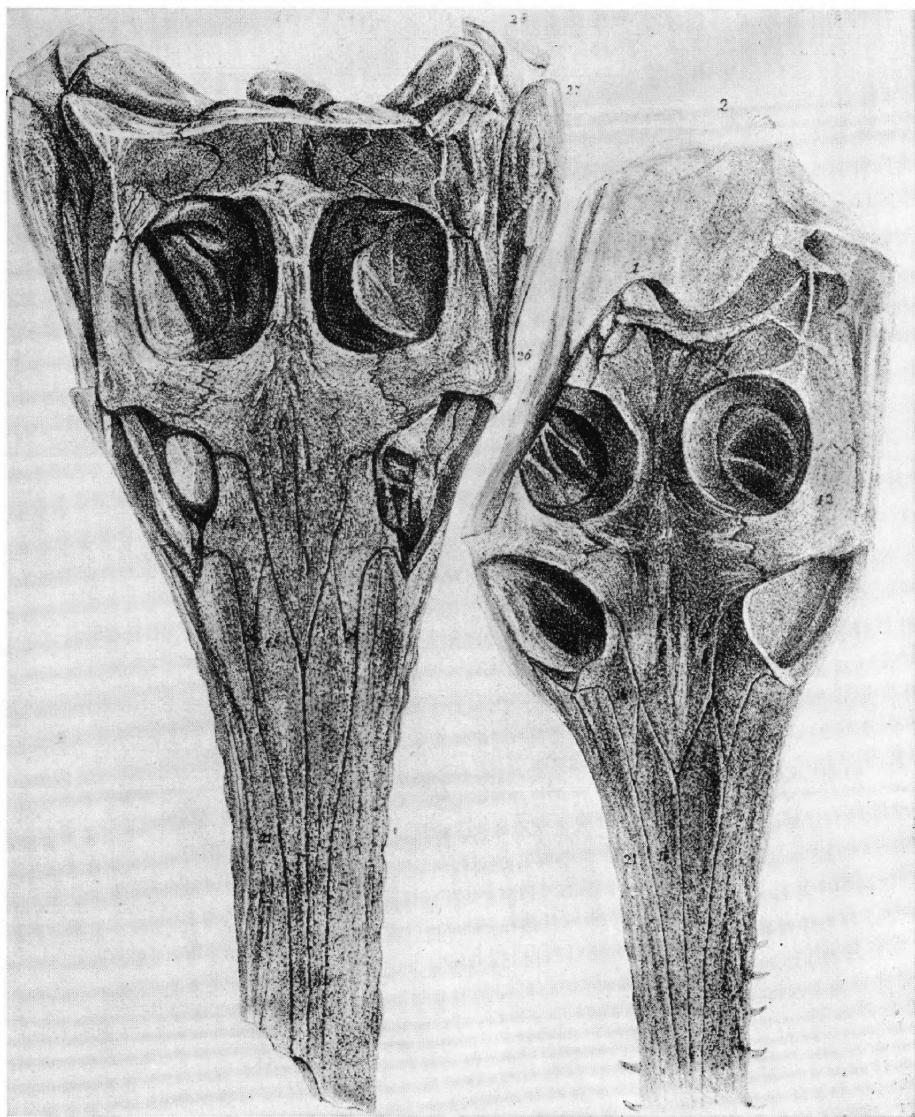


Fig. 1. *Anglosuchus geoffroyi* (Owen). Type skull, superior view, slightly more than one-eighth natural size. After Owen.

Fig. 2. *Anglosuchus laticeps* (Owen). Type skull, superior view, slightly more than one-eighth natural size. After Owen.

prefrontal acuminate, the point being directed outward and backward; these processes are narrower than in the other

species; the anterior process of the prefrontal is also acuminate. The postorbital bones are shorter than in *A. geoffroyi*.

